

Benco 36-26-26-30-26

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:  
maintaining a subscriber database including indicia of multiple communication units of a subscriber;
- 5        determining an active unit of the multiple communication units;  
designating the active unit in the subscriber database; and  
providing service to the active unit.
- 10      2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining an active unit is accomplished upon service provisioning of one of the multiple communication units.
- 15      3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining an active unit is accomplished responsive to a subscriber selection of an active unit.
- 20      4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of determining an active unit is periodically re-accomplished responsive to one or more subscriber requests to change active units.
- 25      5. The method of claim 4, comprising:  
receiving a subscriber request to change designation of the active unit of the multiple communication units from a present active unit to a new active unit;  
designating the new active unit in the subscriber database; and  
providing service to the new active unit under the shared service plan.
- 30      6. The method of claim 1, wherein the subscriber database includes indicia of multiple communication units of a subscriber sharing a directory number, the step of determining an active unit comprises selecting, from among the multiple communication units, a single unit designated as the active unit.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of providing service to the active unit comprises:  
receiving a call request to the directory number;

**Benco 36-26-26-30-26**

consulting the database to determine the active unit of the multiple communication units; and

routing the call to the active unit.

- 5        8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of providing service further comprises:

obtaining billing information associated with the call; and  
recording the billing information in the subscriber database.

- 10      9. In a communication system including a plurality of wireless communication units operably connected to a mobile switching center (MSC), whereby two or more units of the plurality of wireless units share the same directory number, a method comprising the MSC performing steps of:

receiving a call request directed to the directory number;  
15      consulting a database to determine a multiple device feature status associated with the directory number;  
if the multiple device feature is enabled, consulting the database to determine an active unit from among the two or more units sharing the directory number; and  
routing the call to the active unit.

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10. In a communication system providing a service to a subscriber under a wireless service plan, the wireless service plan having one or more service thresholds, a method comprising:

25      maintaining a subscriber database including indicia of multiple wireless units of the subscriber sharing the wireless service plan;  
monitoring subscriber activity among the multiple wireless units relative to the one or more service thresholds, the subscriber activity defining a collective amount of service provided to the multiple wireless units within a billing period associated with the wireless service plan; and  
30      billing the subscriber activity according to the wireless service plan.